



BCHA National Board Meeting March 25th and 27th, 2024
Casper, Wyoming at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center

Monday National Board Meeting

Call To Order: 8:30AM Mountain Time

Roll Call taken by Kathy Young, Quorum met. (52 National Directors in attendance)

Change of agenda added Lifetime Achievement Award to Craig Allen

Reading of mission statement by Mark Himmel

Agenda Approval:

- ❖ *Motion to approve the agenda, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.*

Consent Agenda Approval:

Motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded.

Asked by Becki Krueger regarding the September meeting minutes to be updated to remove the section regarding the Missouri saw training.

- ❖ *Motion amended to: Approve the consent agenda with the removal of the Missouri section, seconded. All in favor, none opposed.*

2023 National Board Meeting Minutes

- ❖ *Motion to approve the 2023 National Board Meeting Minutes, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.*

Deceased member memorial.

State of BCHA – Presented by Chairman Mark Himmel

- Moved Public Lands to the priority level in the SBP.
- Membership: there was a drop in membership, this will move up in priority in the SBP.
- Chair letter, thank you to all who provided comments.
- Constant Contact; has been more successful in open rate.
- National Challenge Cost Share for reimbursement of fuel or stock days has been added to the SBP. Met with the USFS and BCHA is prepared to apply for these at the National level to help chapters.
- Light on the Land: National registry is complete.
- Youth: We provided \$5900 in youth grants.
- Identifying grass roots with public communication and Hike the Hill.
- 11,506 members, 204 Chapters and 31 states with one state in re-organization



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Education Committee Report: Craig Allen See Slides for information.

Chapter Support Grants

- Funded 10 grants this year.
- Thank you to those who donated.

Chapter Name	Amount
Wasatch Front Chapter BCHU	\$1,000
Buffalo River Chapter BCHA	\$500
Peninsula BCHW	\$1,000
Capitol Riders BCHW	\$900
Redwood Unit BCHC	\$1,000
Wild Wonderful BCHA WV	\$1,000
Black Hills BHD SD	\$1,000
Tuttle Creek BCHKS	\$1,000
BCHA PSJC St. Stephens - Alabama	\$1,000
Sylamore BCH of AR	\$1,000



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Media & Marketing See slides.

Nomination Committee Report

Went over the constitution part regarding the Nomination Committee

Current Nominees are...

Chairman position:	Mark Himmel, Montana & Dan Key, New Mexico
Vice Chairman:	Craig Ferdig, Arizona
Treasurer:	Kathy Young
Director:	Brad Pollman, Montana & Misty Valdez, Texas
Non-Director	Dana Chambers, Washington & Joanne Mitchell, Tennessee

Nominations from the floor pending.

Partnership Committee Sherry Copeland, Committee Chair

- Paid Partnerships
 - American Horse Council
 - Partnership for the National Trail System (PNTS)
 - National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA)
 - Leave No Trace Center for Outdoors Ethics (LNT)
 - American Trails Move People Coalition
 - Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT)

Public Lands: Brad Pollman, Committee Chair

- Largest Committee in BCHA
- We are set up in regions, each state is part of a region.
- Presented the chairs/Co-Chairs of each region.
- Goal is to make sure states are participating and improve communication to National Public Lands committee.

Volunteer Hours, presented by John Chepulis.

- We were down in dollar amounts from last year by 7.5%. Hours were down approximately 12%. Travel 2%
- Double Diamond award, 2 applications received, and we will announce the winner on Wednesday night.
- Budget request is \$500, up from last year, due to the cost of the award.
- We are trying to collect a lot of data for the Challenge Cost share so we will be making some changes this summer. This will help in our legislative efforts.



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Backcountry Horsemen of America					
Volunteer Hours Report					
2023					
Date Range (Oct 2022-Sept 2023) or (Jan-Dec 2023)					
	Totals	Rate per hour/mile/day	Total Value		Current Rate per hour/mile/day:
Total Basic Hours	71853	\$31.80	\$2,284,909.50	Calculated per hour	\$31.80
Total Skilled Hours	38215	\$47.70	\$1,822,831.65	Calculated per hour	\$47.70
Non-Trail Hours	71651	\$31.80	\$2,278,495.44	Calculated per hour	\$31.80
Travel Time	49047	\$31.80	\$1,559,683.47	Calculated per hour	\$31.80
Total Hours	230764		\$7,945,920.06		
Personal and Stock Use	1157388	\$1.00	\$1,157,388.40	Calculated per mile	\$1.00
Total Travel Miles	1157388		\$1,157,388.40		
Power Equipment	8368	\$30.00	\$251,025.00	Calculated per hour	\$30.00
Heavy Equipment	3123	\$110.00	\$343,530.00	Calculated per hour	\$110.00
Total Equipment Hours	11491		\$594,555.00		
Total Stock Days	12315	\$100.00	\$1,231,500.00	Calculated per day	\$100.00
			\$1,231,500.00		
Total Donations	\$434,472.51		\$434,472.51		
		Total	\$11,363,835.97		

The value of Volunteer time is determined by The Independent Sector each year.
 Skilled labor is one and one-half times basic labor
https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

Youth Committee presented by Greg Schatz

- Thanked everyone for their continued support in the youth committee last year we raised \$5900 toward the youth committee that was used to provide youth grants. Awarded grants to 13 chapters up to \$500. Committee is hoping to have support again this year.
- There is a Youth page on the BCHA website.
- Youth scholarship becomes live April 1st. Age 16 – 25. You can read more about it on the youth page on the BCHA website.
- Thanked those who shared the youth committee survey but not many who submitted the survey. National Directors need to send it on to chapters, this is our communication link from National.
- There will be discussions during breakfast and lunches to build the bridge to engaging youth in BCHA.

Expansion Committee:

- Freddy Dunn resigned a few months ago.
- Dana Chambers and Misty Valdez will co-chair Expansion committee.
- The first task is to find out why membership is down.

Treasurer Report: Kathy Young

- Financials are as of February 29th, 2024.
- Balance sheet and Budget vs Actual provided in the National Director folder.



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- Bank account balances provided.
- Assets provided.
- Investment account balances provided. The Legacy and Legal accounts only show what we have invested. Total of investment accounts value provided as of 3/24/2024.
- Liabilities and Equity provided.
- Budget vs Actuals through February 29th, 2024
- Have not made any big changes throughout the year, and on target with the budget.

Challenge Cost Share Discussion

Chairman discussed Challenge Cost Share and group conversation regarding Challenge Cost Share.

Treasurer Report Acceptance:

Discussion on the projected financials for the Fiscal year 2023-2024.

- ❖ ***Motion to accept the financial report as presented, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

Executive Administrator Report

Michelle Wade presented her report.

Director of Public Lands Report

Randy Rasmussen presented his report.

Contract Review presented by Craig Ferdig

Lakeside Administrative Services: Michelle Wade has asked for a small increase.

Director of Public Lands; Randy Rasmussen has an increase each year for 3 years.

2024-2025 Proposed Budget Presentation presented by Treasurer.

Dues:

- Will be discussed later today, and the dues increase will not be in effect until 2026.
- Some states have donated the dues increase early.
- Donations: Down compared to what was budgeted.
- National Board Meeting: We are looking at higher costs for 2025.
- Director of Public Lands: Reflects the increase for this fiscal year.
- Executive Administrator: Reflects the small increase requested by Lakeside.
- Accounting & Bookkeeping: This budget was decreased due to lower cost.
- Business Plan Directive: Suggested we not have this line because the EC can make decisions.
- Committee Expense: Are lower this coming year because funds were not used.

Dues Increase Ratification \$5 increase across all categories.

- ❖ ***Motion to increase the dues by \$5, seconded. (3/4 Majority Vote) Vote approved by 87%. Motion to increase dues by \$5 passed.***



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COLA Resolution Recommendation presented by Sherry Copeland

The working committee investigation found the following:

Changing the mechanism for instating dues increase based on “Cost of Living Adjustment.”

Recommendation: At the national Board of directors meeting at which the National Board of Directors approve dues increase, and additional National Board of Directors meeting must be scheduled to ratify the proposed dues increase.

Governance Policy Compliance Review

We are meeting or exceeding all of the compliance requirements of the governance policy.

Other New Business

- Chairman opened the floor for discussion.
- Send out a National Director list to all National Directors.
- What is the reason for having ND calls on a Wednesday night and can we change it? This would be a big overtaking; we will not be moving the meeting night.
- Discussion on the investment accounts.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:14PM Mountain Time



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WEDNESDAY BUSINESS MEETING CONTINUED

Called to order at 8:30AM Mountain Time

Chairman provided announcements necessary for today and thanked volunteers.
National Director gifts were handed out this morning. Water bottles and cooling bandanas.

Strategic Business Plan (SBP)

Please don't copy the Strategic Business Plan in the shared drive. It creates multiple copies, and they are hard to remove.

SBP was approved by the board last year and Chairman has added a couple more threats in just the last week.

Threats:

Public Lands: Communication at the lower level, between the chapters and the state. This important because problems will build up and the sooner, we have the information the sooner we can formulate a plan.

Possible litigation: We don't have enough money in the legal fund if/when a legal happens, and the foreseen future, something will happen.

What do states need to be doing now to be prepared? We are looking for communication so we can head off legal action. Suggested, this fight is going to be different than we have ever fought before, this may not be from an agency but from another organization.

Discussion on how to grow the BCHA legal fund. Possible fundraising but something to think about.

Membership Expansion: We need to increase membership.

- Fundraising: Donations coming in are about average, but the dollar amount of each donation is smaller and below budget.
- Legacy Chair Letter: Didn't ask for donations but instead asked for bequeaths.
- Chairman will continue with the targeted campaigns this year.

❖ ***Motion to approve the SBP as presented, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

Light on the Land: The outline in your folder is something you can use no matter where you are or what you are doing. This is a work in progress, there will be videos and more information added.

Light on the Land is copyrighted, BCHA owns Light on the Land.



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Budget Approval

Volunteer Hours Committee asked for their budget to increase to \$500.

Proposed to change the budget for the newsletter to \$8600.

Informal poll to see who is in favor of spending upward of \$10,000 for a printed newsletter, 14 in favor and 30 against spending the money.

Motion to keep only digital newsletters, seconded.

Discussion: If we are looking to attract younger members, they do everything electronically.

Suggested solution: If your chapter wants a printed newsletter, print out the e-blast and give it to them.

Advertising: This is the Sponsors & Advertising line in the budget.

Clarification of what the monthly eblast is called. "Monthly Update"

Discussion on how the monthly update.

- ❖ ***Motion to cease discussion and vote on the motion. All in favor.***
- ❖ ***Motion to keep only digital newsletter restated. Motion passed.***

Added \$2000 to the Sponsors and Advocacy income budget.

Promotional Items:

- ❖ ***Motion to add a 10% markup on the BCHA branded merchandise. (\$200 addition to income) Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

Is it possible to add to this legal fund from this budget? Only from donation.

Motion to take 10% of all donations to the legal fund, seconded.

Discussion: How do we do this when donations are designated to certain categories?

How are we going to increase the legal fund? Designated fundraising.

Motion to take 10% of all donations to the legal fund has been rescinded.

Requested to go over the budget line by line. Request granted.

Informal pull to exclude the business plan directive from the budget. Removing the business plan directive from the budget.

- ❖ ***Motion to increase the dues number by 5%, \$135,450. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

Discussion on the due's income line and the donation.

Alaska committed to \$500 in additional dues for 2024-2025.

Montana committed to \$5000 in additional dues for 2024-2025.

Motion to show \$4000 in the due's donation line item, seconded.

- ❖ ***Motion to cease discussion, all in favor. None opposed.***



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Motion to approve the income portion of the budget, motion withdrawn.

❖ ***Motion to increase the \$5 donation line to \$5,500, seconded. Motion passed.***

Discussion: If this motion passes, we will have a deficit of \$470.

❖ ***Motion to approve the budget as it has been changed, seconded. Motion passed.***

Discussion: With changes there is a \$70 deficit.

Expenses: \$206,620

Income \$206,550

Discussion on Auction items and where the funds go.

Need to create a written guideline on how many items go to the host state, designated items to donations.

Nominations and Elections

Nominations committee chair presented. Mark Himmel and Dan Key

No Nominations from the floor

Motion to close nominations for Chair, seconded. All in favor, nominations closed.

Nominations for Vice Chair, Craig Ferdig

Motion to close nominations, seconded. All in favor, nominations closed.

Motion to accept the vice chair position by acclamation, seconded. Craig Ferdig elected to the Vice Chair position.

Nominations for Treasurer, Kathy Young.

Motion to close nominations, seconded. All in favor, nominations closed.

Motion to accept the vice chair position by acclamation, seconded. Kathy Young elected to the Treasurer position.

Director Position (2 positions) Nominations: Brad Pollman, Misty Valdez

Nominated from the floor, Heather Cox from North Carolina. Seconded.

Motion to close nominations, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Nominations closed.

Non-Director Position (1 position) Nominations: Dana Chambers WA and Joanne Mitchell TN

No nominations from the floor.

Motion to close nominations, seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Ballots were passed out.

Each Chairman nominee provided 2 minutes to talk to the National Directors. In order below.

1. Mark Himmel, Montana
2. Dan Key, New Mexico



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Each Director nominee provided 2 minutes to talk to the National Directors. In order below.

1. Brad Pollman, Montana
2. Misty Valdez, Texas
3. Heather Cox, North Carolina

Each non-Director nominee provided 2 minutes to talk to the National Directors. In order below.

1. Dana Chambers, Washington
2. Joanne Mitchell, Tennessee (Absent) Tom Thomas spoke for her.

State Accomplishments (Order of the Good)

Around the room, all National Directors were provided the opportunity to discuss “happenings” in their states.

Election Results

Nomination Chair read the election results.

Chairman is Mark Himmel

Vice Chairman: Craig Ferdig

Treasurer: Kathy Young

Directors: Brad Pollman and Heather Cox

Non-Director: Dana Chambers

- ❖ **Motion to destroy the ballots. Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**

2025 National Board Meeting

Prescott, Arizona

2026 National Board Meeting

South Carolina/Georgia combined.

- ❖ ***Motion to approve the 2026 National Board Meeting in South Carolina/Georgia. Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.***
- ❖ **Motion to adjourn the National Board Meeting. Seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.**



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